

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECRET

COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

SUBJECT Shortage of Natural Rubber in East Germany

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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
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(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. At the 15 March 1955 meeting of the Kollegium of the East German Ministry for Heavy Industry, Minister Fritz Selbmann reported that natural rubber was in such short supply a state of emergency that several tire-producing plants would have to be shut down in the near future.

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2. Where formerly 30% natural rubber had been used with 70% synthetic rubber (Buna) in the manufacture of tires, the tires being produced as of March 1955 contained only 10%, and in some cases even only 5%, natural rubber.

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the decision was made to import natural rubber from the "capitalist" countries. Selbmann was authorized to conclude direct agreements, on a barter basis, between his ministry and representatives of foreign countries.

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